

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 190411

56

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01

SAM-01 ACDA-10 IO-13 TRSE-00 /094 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:JHHAWES:MEM

APPROVED BY EUR:JGLOWENSTEIN

C:LFUERTH

S/S:A. OTTO

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P 311830Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 190411

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PFOR, MARR, NATO

SUBJECT: PRESS QUESTIONS ON ACDA REPORT ON SOVIET IRBMS

FOLLOWING ARE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS  
SESSION JULY 30 REGARDING SUBJECT OF SOVIET IRBMS TARGETTED  
ON WESTERN EUROPE IN ACDA ANNUAL REPORT. FURTHER PRESS  
GUIDANCE WILL BE SENT YOU WHEN APPROVED.

BEGIN TEXT:

Q. THE ACDA REPORT THAT WAS SENT TO THE CONGRESS YESTERDAY  
TALKS ABOUT THE DEPLOYMENT OF --

A. THE WHAT?

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Q. THE ACDA REPORT -- TALKED ABOUT THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE MIRV MISSILES, APPARENTLY THE S-20, ON THE WESTERN BORDER OF THE SOVIET UNION. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFERENCE TO BE DRAWN FROM THAT ACTION, ANY COMMENT UPON IT?

A. I MUST CONFESS THAT I HAVE NOT READ THE WHOLE REPORT THAT WENT UP YESTERDAY, WHICH I SAW YESTERDAY AFTERNOON. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE REPORT NOTES THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE DEVELOPED THIS NEW INTERMEDIATE-RANGE

BALLISTIC MISSILE. THAT IS SOMETHING THAT WE HAVE BEEN AWARE OF FOR SOME TIME. AND I THINK THAT THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE REPORTED THIS DEVELOPMENT IN HIS ANNUAL REPORT LAST JANUARY.

OBVIOUSLY THIS DEVELOPMENT WOULD INCREASE THEIR CAPABILITY, BUT IT IS EVERYBODY'S JUDGMENT THAT OUR CAPABILITY -- NATO'S CAPABILITY -- IS ALSO INCREASING. AND BOTH SIDES HAVE CERTAINLY BEEN UPGRADING AND MODERNIZING THEIR FORCES.

Q. BOB, WHAT THE ACDA REPORT SAYS GOES BEYOND WHAT THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SAID. THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SAID IT WAS BEING DEVELOPED. THE ACDA REPORT SAYS THAT IT IS IN FACT BEING DEPLOYED, THAT MULTIPLE WARHEADS ARE BEING FITTED ON MISSILES ON THE WESTERN BORDER OF THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH IS MORE THAN WHAT MR. RUMSFELD SAID. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT SPECIFIC ACTION OR DEPLOYMENT OTHER THAN THE DEVELOPMENT -- ?

A. I WOULD HAVE TO LOOK INTO THAT AND CHECK THE REPORT. I DO NOT HAVE AN ANSWER.

Q. ARE YOU SAYING THAT NATO IS NOW PUTTING MIRV'S ON ITS INTERMEDIATE-RANGE MISSILES?

A. NO. I AM TALKING ABOUT IN THE CONTEXT OF UPGRADING AND MODERNIZING OUR FORCES, WHICH IS A CONSTANT PROCESS.

Q. IF I COULD TAKE YOU BACK TO THE PLO -- ?  
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Q. MAY WE STAY WITH THIS? THE OTHER COROLLARY OF THIS IS THAT THE SS-20 IS CAPABLE OF BEING CONVERTED INTO AN INTERCONTINENTAL MISSILE, AND SINCE ITS NUMBERS ARE NOT RESTRICTED, IT POSES THE RISK OF BEING A MAJOR HOLE IN THE CURRENT SALT AGREEMENT AND IN THE PROPOSED VLADISVOSTOCK AGREEMENT.

A. IT HAS BEEN MY UNDERSTANDING THAT IT IS THE JUDGMENT --  
THAT ALL AGENCIES AGREE THAT IT IS AN INTERMEDIATE-RANGE  
MISSILE.

Q. IT IS AN INTERMEDIATE-RANGE MISSILE, BUT A THIRD  
STAGE CAN BE FITTED TO IT RATHER EASILY, I GATHER, TO MAKE  
IT AN INTERCONTINENTAL MISSILE.

A. I DO NOT KNOW THAT. THAT IS NOT MY UNDERSTANDING,  
BUT LET ME CHECK FURTHER INTO IT.

Q. AT THE TIME OF VLADIVOSTOCK, THE SECRETARY SAID THAT  
THE SOVIET UNION UNEXPECTEDLY AND FOR NO APPARENT REASON  
AGREED NOT TO COUNT THE FRENCH AND BRITISH NUCLEAR STRIKE  
FORCES IN ITS AGREEMENT. CAN YOU CHECK TO FIND OUT  
WHETHER IN FACT A QUID PRO QUO WAS GIVEN THAT THE IRBM'S  
WOULD NOT BE COUNTED?

A. LET ME LOOK INTO IT.

END TEXT.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY:EUR/RPM:EDNEWSOM:MEM

APPROVED BY:EUR/RPM:JHAWES

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P 210635Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUDORRA/USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM PRIORITY

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY PRIORITY

CINCLANT NORFOLK PRIORITY

USLOSACLANT NORFOLK PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 190411

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 190411 ACTION THE HAGUE SEP 4.

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 190411 ACTION NATO INFO LONDON  
BONN PARIS MOSCOW 31 JULY 76.

QUOTE

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, MARR, US, NATO, ACDA  
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